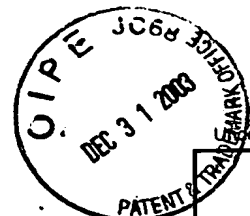


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PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal</b>  Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	<b>Application Number</b>	10/020,389
	<b>Filing Date</b>	October 30, 2001
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Paul Higham
	<b>Art Unit</b>	1732
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	M. Fontaine
	<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	SPINE 3.0-352

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**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 12-1095

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

<b>Name (Print/Type)</b>	Raymond W. Augustin	<b>Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)</b>	28,588
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	December 29, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 29, 2003

Signature:

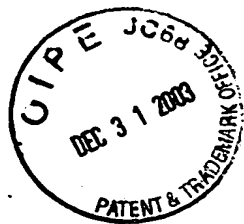
(Raymond W. Augustin)

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Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-352

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Higham et al.

Application No.: 10/020,389

Filed: October 30, 2001

For: ION TREATED HYDROGEL

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::: Group Art Unit: 1732  
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::: Examiner: M. Fontaine  
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AMENDMENT

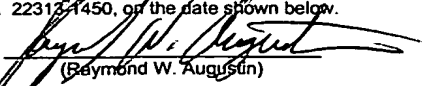
MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the official action mailed October 9, 2003, applicant submits the following amendments and remarks.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 29, 2003 Signature: 

(Raymond W. Augustin)